



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN TO THE
SOUTHWARD.

May 9th to July 14th, 1778.

By
John Faucheraud Grinké.

June.

1: The Artillery arrived in Camp this Morning. Intermitting Showers.

Authentic Accounts are rec^d. that the Independence of America is acknowledged by the Crown of France & that a Commercial Treaty is entered into by that Kingdom & the United States of America & that he has guaranteed not only Our Independence but all that part of America which lays between Nova Scotia & the two Floridas In Consequence of this 13 pieces of Artillery were discharged & Grog served to the whole line, which testified a general approbation by loud & repeated Huzzas.

The Engineer & D: Q: M: G: have orders to clear the road thro' the swamp on the other side of the River opposite to Reids bluff, that in case of accident Our Retreat may be secure to Sunbury on Savannah.

2: Visited Clarkes bluff a post 3 miles down the River: it is an old Overgrown Field, of small extent surrounded by a thickset of small depth: The only advantage which can recommend this place is its vicinity to the Galleys. Not having time to examine this Situation we could only judge from appearance that a deep lagoon flanked the upper side of the Field & that the opposite swamp seemed capable of a good road. Intermitting Showers.

3: The Army has been out of meat Provisions these three days, owing to the difficulties of procuring Beef in the Settlements nearest to us, the great distance of the back-Country where alone any quantity can be purchased, the Militia having seized upon part of our Cattle & having

monopolized a much larger quantity, than they can possible use this Campaign.

Comodore Bowen came up last night from Darian, where he left the galleys.

One Hundred head of Cattle are just arrived in Camp to our great joy, & our affairs begin to wear a more favorable appearance.

4: A Detachment was sent out last night towards Fort McIntosh on Great S^t Illa River to learn whether the Enemy are yet at Fort Tonym by their celebrating this day in discharging their Field-Pieces on Swivels.

Major Romad & Cap^t. Young, of the Artillery, arrived this Morning at 9 o'clock in Camp & Reported that in Coming from Fort Howe they passed the Body of one Seeds, a Gunsmith who had crossed the River about ten Minutes before them; He was shot in three several places, had three scalps taken off of his head & a fourth just marked out which it is supposed the Coming of these Gentlemen prevented being torn off. His mare which he rode was shot dead, & lay at a small distance from the body. The Corpse was exposed to the Soldiery as a Warning to them & at the same time orders were issued to the Line forbidding them going out of Camp, & that Severe Punishment would be the Consequence of their Disobedience. The Indulgence of Straying out of Camp was connived at before this accident, because the Soldiers supplied themselves with Honey, which being mixed with Rice afforded them a tolerable sustenance, particularly when our Beef was exhausted. A detachment under Cap^t. Taylor of the Sixth South Carolina Continental Battallion immediately pursued the Indians, but the Variety of tracks which Our men had made when out Honey Hunting rendered his intentions ineffectual. Some Privates, who were out at the same time looking for Bee-trees, say that they saw the Indians & pursued them into a thick swamp, where they lost them & that their Number Amounted to Sixteen. 80 head of Cattle arrived in Camp.

5: The General rec^d a letter from Col^o. Jack acquainting him that he had altered his rout from Beards bluff to Fort

Howe by Order of the Governor & that he had reached McIntoshes Fort (20 Miles distant from Fort Howe.) He particularly informs that his Troops are in great want of bread Provisions & Requests that some Rice may be sent to him. This Requisition cannot be complied with as we have no Rice for our own Sustenance to morrow in Camp, & none had been laid up for the Militia, as Col°. Jack had neglected to inform the General which route he should take, according to the Generals desire of the 28 May last, that he might provide accordingly. Fine Sunshine.

6: Col°: Taarling D: Q: M: G: for the State of Georgia informed the General that the Militia had pressed fifteen of the Continental Horses, by which means four Waggons which were expected up with Stores & Clothing for the Troops, from Savannah were stopped. This disappointment is truly great, & the injury is such that the Continental Georgia Troops must suffer much for want of Clothing, most of them being covered with an only Shirt.

Major Wilder is arrived in our Camp & Says that he left 500 Minute Men about 5 Miles distant in Camp. He assures us that the Governor had been called into Savannah where a Spy had been apprehended & would (it was supposed) be hanged. He also informs us that 30 of the Militia had gone off to the Enemy in a body & that Desertions have been very frequent in the Governors Camp. He returned to his own encampment in the Evening.

The Sick have been moving down to Darian. Their number amounts to 300.

Some Corn meal & salt beef is arrived & has been served out to the Men: but the former is so extremely sour that the Soldiers prefer Rice to it, altho' that article is not of the best kind that we are provisioned with.

Lieut^s. Davenport & Turner Returned this Morning from the Scout, on which they were Detached the 3^d June. They Report that they heard the discharge of Guns at Fort Tonyn upon the River S^t. Marys, on the 4th: June. They advanced as far as S^t. Illia & discovered the tracks of the Indians supposed to be that party which scalped Seeds on the 4th ins: They believe they are still hovering around the

Camp, as they did not discover their steps further distant than 10 Miles from Us.

The Dep: Com: Gen: of Purchases James Rae Esq: arrived in Camp & Reported that 80 head of Cattle are drove to Fort Howe, 150 head will be at McIntoshes Fort on the 9th Inst: & that he had rec^d. Intelligence from his Drivers in the Back Country, that they had already purchased up 500 head & that they were waiting for an additional Supply of 200 More which they should Obtain in a few Days & then proceed to drive them to the Army.

A Deserter was today punished 99 lashes & 15 Minutes standing on the piquet: This man had Deserted before Lister & his Party & it is observable that not one Desertion has happened since their Execution.

7: The First Brigade marches to-day: Col^o. Com^t: Elbert has orders to proceed upon his March with Expedition & form an encampment at Old Town upon the Northern bank of S^t. Illa, there to wait the Arrival of the Remainder of the Troops & to extend a work on the Southern side of the River if possible, to facilitate the passage of the Army.

Three Deserters were brought in this Morning by Lieu^t. Hampton,¹ who had quitted the Second Brigade in their March from Charles Town: He pursued them above 200 Miles.—He Reports that Col^o: Wiliamson from 96 in South Carolina, he heard, had already crossed Savannah River with 700 or 800 Men & a very large supply of flour and stall fed Beef, which He had discovered concealed in the Dutch Settlement in the Forks of Saludy, provided by the Inhabitants for our Enemies from Florida, whom they expected would invade this Country & S^o Carolina.

A Report prevails that M^r. Galphin has engaged 500 Creek Indians in Our Service, who are to Rendezvous at S^t. Marys where they Expect to Meet us: both these pieces of Intelligence want Confirmation & the former is discredited by all the Carolinians as the General had rec^d. no express from the President of South Carolina upon this Subject & it does not appear that their assistance is wanted.

8: An Express arrived this Evening from Commodore

¹Lieut. Henry Hampton, commissioned 23^a Jan., 1778.

Bowen at Darien & from Col^o: White (who is appointed to Command the Land Forces put on board the Galleys) informing the General that they proposed sending the Sick to Sappolo Island where they could be provided with fresh beef, Milk & Vegetables. The General acquiesced in their Recommendation Receded from his own opinion of placing the Sick at S^t. Catherines & returned the Express the same Evening. Five Waggons arrived in Camp from Fort Howe, fitted up for the March.

Our Cattle has broke out of their Pen, which will probably retard Our March.

9: Part of the Cattle has been found & brought back to Camp.

Two Waggons have been forwarded to Us, laden with salt from McIntoshes Fort by Col^o: Jack. The General has wrote to him requesting the loan of the Two Waggons & Teams.

A Boat with 30 b^{bls} of Rice is arrived from Darien: the Passengers bring no acc^t. of the boat that was sent down 4 days ago with L^{ts}. Wetherby & Elliott, the latter of whom was to bring Up the fixed Ammunition for the Field Pieces brought from S^c. Carolina.

Intelligence is rec^d. that Commodore Bowen sailed at 9 o'clock in the Evening after the 8th Ins^t:

10: A Detachment of fifty Men from Col^o: Jacks Camp are arrived on the opposite bank of the River with Orders to take possession of our encampment as soon as we should march off and secure the Stores left behind.

L^{ts}. Weatherly & Elliott² are arriving from Darien with the Artillery Stores & medicine Chest.

Four more Waggons are arrived in Camp fit for service.

11: Our Cattle are all found. Another Waggon is arrived in Camp & we have assurance from Major Romand that he will have furnished by tomorrow three more.

The D: Q: M: G: is ordered to purchase Waggons & Horses in the Militia Camp: He returned soon having deputed the Waggon-Master of the Georgia troops to en-

²1st. Lieut. Wetherly of 1st. Reg. Com: 8th May, 1777; Barnard Elliott of the Artillery, commissioned 29th May, 1778.

gage several for him as he found the advantage of the Necessity we lay under & demanded an Extraordinary & enormous price.

The D: Q: M: G: reports that he saw two waggons & Teams belonging to the Continental Army bringing up a few Stores from Savannah & that he ordered them to proceed immediately to our Camp by Fort Howe.

Major Howel of the Militia who is encamped on the opposite bank of the River, informs Us that Col^o. Jack has 5 field Pieces with him of Six & Eight Pounders.

The Militia having requested some Corn flour of Us, it was delivered them, altho' a scarce article in Our Camp & which when they had Rec^d., they refused to eat as unfit for Provisions the officers & Soldiers however of the Continental Troops had never Murmured.

12: An Express arrived from Sunbury informing of the arrival of a boat from Charles Town with Canteens & Camp-Letters; he was immediately sent back with Orders, for the boat to proceed without delay to S^t. Illa. The Governor has engaged the Rebecca, One of the Prizes taken at Frederica, to Convey Provisions for his troops.

General Moultrie¹ in a letter informs the General that he has dispatched a Schooner with 150 b^{bls} of Salt-Pork & 50 Tents.

Four Horses & a Waggon were this Day drowned in crossing the Alatomaha at Fort Howe: Major Romand sent the Waggon-Master to Camp under Guard, who was tried & acquitted, the Waggon-Master having proved that Major Romand compelled him to take more Horses in the flat than he was willing to do, as he did not think them safe. This Cruel disappointment has once more Clouded the prospect of Our Operations & almost every probability of being able to proceed seemed lost to our Sight.

The Refusal which Col^o: Jack had given us a few days ago when the General requested his assistance in Horses & Waggons yielded us very poor Expectations of Success from that Quarter. Compelled however by the necessity

¹See Moultrie's *Memoirs of the American Revolution*, Vol. 1, p. 224, for the letter to Gen. Howe.

We laboured Under rendered still more unfit to proceed by the above accident & there being an Absoluted Obligation to Join & Support Col^o: Elbert, who had advanced as far as S^t Illas River, 50 Miles from home, The General Once more wrote to Col^o: Jack painting our true situation to him & Dispatched the D: Q: M: G: late in the Evening requesting four Waggon & Teams. Who upon his return reported that Col^o: Jack had promised to send us Two Waggon & Teams & Two Spare Teams early the next Morning.

A Cattle Driver having informed the General that whilst he was out in the Woods on his Duty, he saw the tracks of Indians about two or three Miles down the River. A Party under the Command of Cap^t Taylor* was ordered to pursue them immediately. Whilst this Detachment was out, We heard a firing down the River, which was supposed to be an engagement between Our Party & the Indians; & whilst another Party was parading to Support Cap^t. Taylor, He returned with his Detachment & Reported that they were not the tracks of Indians.—Intermitting Showers.

The Weather has in general been warm in the Day time & Cool & Pleasant at Nights.

The General has wrote to Col^o: Jack to spare him Two or Three Drivers of Cattle.

13: Major Romand arrived this Morning in the new flat, which Conveys a Waggon & four Hourses over the River at one turn. He brought down a Waggon & Team which proves a Considerable Addition to our Small Stock. Two Waggon & Three Teams are also arrived from Col^o: Jack & he has likewise furnished Us with Three Cattle Drivers.

An Express has brought a Letter to the Dep: Com: of Purchases informing him that 500 head of cattle are within five miles of Fort Howe: They are ordered to follow Us immediately.

The Drivers from Col^o: Jacks Camp were Volunteers in the Expedition, otherwise they would not have been permitted to assist Us: as the Drivers of the 500 head of

*Samuel Taylor, of the 6th Reg., commissioned 25th Mar., 1776.

which we this Day rec^d an acc^t: are draughted to serve in the Militia. They have been Ordered by Col^o: Scriven to proceed no farther than Fort-Howe, from whence they are to Return & join their Respective Reg^{ts}. The General notwithstanding this positive Command of the Militia Officers, has desired them to proceed with him; which they have consented to, since he has promised to take all the blame upon himself.

The Dep: Com: of Purchases having disappointed Us in Cattle Drivers, was the Reason we applied to the Militia.

We should have marched this afternoon but the weather continues Changeable, Sunshine & Intermitting Rains.

14: The General beat this Morning at half-past four o'Clock: at 9 a Field Piece was fired, the signal for striking the Tents. The Army was in Readiness at 10, when D: Q: M: G: Reported that some of the Waggon-Horses had escaped out of Camp, This Accident produced a very disagreeable disappointment, more particularly as the numberless inconveniences which had occurred since Our arrival at Fort Howe, had already retarded Us long beyond our expectations; & the advancing Season of the year required our utmost Exertions at present: Every Moment lost at this time was a considerable Injury to the Cause & the Army.

The General has not heard from the Governor² since, we are not acquainted with his plans & Measures: his Numbers are unknown: We are uncertain how far he has proceeded on his March & his Troops are Reported to be squadded about in such a Manner that they cannot be collected time enough to act in Concert with the Cont. Troops at S^t Marys: His force, by Vague information, consists of 500 with Col^o. Jack; under the Command of Col^o: Stuart 200; the S^t: Johns & Chatham County Militia compose a Corps of 200 More & Col^o: Williamson from the back parts of South Carolina with 800 Men. total 1700. This Number however, we are also informed is reduced by daily & frequent Desertions.

²Moultrie's *Memoirs*, Vol. 2, and Jones's *History of Georgia*, Vol. 2, pp. 288-303 throw more light upon the frictions between Gen. Howe and Gov. Houston, and between the Militia and the Continental troops.

The Continental Troops are Reduced to 700 Effectives: the artillery consists of 50: The South Carolina Brigade has one half of their number sick.³

The Army Marched at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 o'Clock: Three Waggon & One of the Field Pieces had some accidents, but were soon Repaired, & proceeded to a branch about 5 Miles distant from Reid's bluff. The Gen: attended by his Suite & Col^o: Pinckney Reconnoitered the Ground for their Encampment & the troops arrived there about 6 o'clock. the Rear did not reach Camp until 9. The Camp was formed upon a small rising ground Covered on its left flank & best part of the front by the Swamp which runs in form of an Elbow: on the right flank & Rear was open pine barren. The Army encamped along the road, the artillery in the Center of the line. The flanks were covered by a few Companies, who encamped perpendicular to the line. The Waggon in the Rear of the Line. The Main Guard was posted on a small Eminence between the Line & the Swamp & extended Centries along the branch, the other Guards were also posted advantageously.

A Report prevails that the Militia from Savannah have refused to March; the Governor in Consequence of such Refusal has confined several of the Privates: the Commotion however has not yet subsided.

The Governor was in Sunbury last Night.

In quitting Reids bluff the General wrote to the Governor Expressed some Surprise at not having rec^d any intelligence of his Notions & Designs; that he had waited for him some time but that Col^o: Elbert who had been advanced to S^t Illa, seven days, must be supported. He therefore informed him that He had Marched and must defer an interview with him until they arrived at S^t. Illa or S^t. Marys & made him (the Governor) totally acquainted with his Intentions & future operations.

Camp named Spring Branch.

15: The Army Marched at 8 o'clock (a Detachment being left behind to bring up two Waggon which were

³The region was malarial, the heat intense, water bad, shelter inadequate, and food improper.

Repairing) & arrived in Camp about three in the afternoon, after a Sultry fatiguing March of 8 or 9 Miles & took post upon a hill.

The form of the line of Encampment was the same as the last.

An Express arrived this Evening from Gov^r. Houston requesting that the General would Return to Reids bluff where He wished to have a Conference: The General immediately resolved to Return.

Camp named Spring Hill.

A Report Prevails that Augustine is reinforced; Seven Transports having been seen to pass Beaufort S^c Carolina, Steering to the Southward.

16: The General & his Suite set out for Reids bluff this Morning. The Interview between the Governor & the General was very interesting & some intelligence of Consequence communicated—particularly a plan was discovered which was intended to involve the Gen: & Gov: in a quarrel. Mutual Professions of Amity took place & they parted with a reciprocity of Confidence. The Gov: promised to March in 3 or 4 days at farthest after Us.

Col^o: Jacks Troops were crossing the Alatamaha this day: Col^o: Stuart was expected there in the Evening: Col^o: Walton with his Militia had Marched from McIntoshes Fort this Morning & was expected in Camp at Reids bluff tomorrow. Col^o: Williamson is also looked for in a few days: these are the first authentic Acc^{ts} that we have rec^d. respecting the advance of the Carolina Militia. The General & his Suite Overtook his Camp at Carneys Cowpen, 8 miles distant from Our last nights Encampment & about 22 Miles from Reids bluff.

The General ordered Major Romand to Deliver the Artillery & Stores he then had at Fort Howe into the Charge of Governor Houston & take his Directions about the Sick: He is then to Evacuate that Post & follow us immediately.—

18: The Army proceeded on its March about 8 Miles Yesterday & encamped on a branch of Little S^t. Illas en
———[?]

On the 18 Inst: the Gen: beat at 4 o'Clock in the Morning & marched off the ground soon after. About 12 o'Clock we arrived in Camp in a low Palmetto ground having Marched 12 Miles in a very sultry Sun without finding any Water, Showery in the afternoon.

This place was called Camp Intelligence, from our having rec^d. the following Intelligence, being an Extract of Col^o: Elberts Letter.

"I am to inform you that on yesterday I sent out a party of Light Infantry under Command of Col^o. Harris & with them a few volunteers on Horseback under Col^o: Habersham as a Scouting Party who soon fell in with a Small body of the Enemy's Scout & took 8 Horses Saddles & bridles which the others quitted upon the appearance of our People & made their Escape in a thick Swamp. Capt. Moore whom I likewise sent out with a party of Foot, on a different Rout fell in with & took one of the Above fellows a prisoner who informs that Col^o: Brown has 300 Men at Fort Tonym, that about 500 Scopholites & a few Red Coats are encamped half way between that & S^t. John's, that three Companies of Regulars, the 60: are on this side of S^t. Johns at the Cow Ford & that a Considerable Body are on the other side of the Same ford. He says he left Augustine about Ten Days since, that they were in high Spirits expecting a Reinforcement of Troops & that since he left it an Express had come to Col^o: Brown informing him that they were arrived."

We are informed by Letters from the Northward that it is suspected General Howe is evacuating Philadelphia and that the British Troops are already withdrawn from Rhode Island—Intermitting Showers.

19: The Army arrived in Camp on Great S^t. Illas & formed a Junction with the Troops under Col^o. Elbert.

All Duties are done without the beat of Drum.

Five Hundred Head of Cattle are arrived.

23: The Army has crossed Great S^t Illas & are encamped in an old field where One Cauty Used to live.

The Engineer has erected a Horn-work which Commands the Old Field & Serves to Cover our Retreat: its

flanks are admirably well defended by Two Field-Pieces from the opposite Side of the River & which are So placed as to form a Cross-fire in the front of the Horn-work. There is a bank formed by Nature which runs along the North Side of the River, behind which Our Troops may either March to Reinforce or Retreat from the Post without the Enemys being able to Annoy them in the least, for half a Mile thro' the Swamp to the high land which is 50 or 60 feet in descent: Here are the Remains of a Small Redoubt erected by Col^o: Fuzer to Cover the Retreat of his Troops when he advanced & took Fort McIntosh upon Great S^t. Illas.

A Scouting Party sent by the General to Wrights landing at the mouth of S^t. Marys to learn if the Galleys were there and derive some intelligence of the Enemy's Motions, is Returned & Reports that the Galleys are laying at Wrights landing, with Two flats each Mounting a 12 pounder, & Several small Craft to the Amount of 12 Sail in all.—The Sick have recovered surprisingly there being now but 28 ill & none of them dangerously in the whole fleet—the sick sent to Sappolo & S^t Catherines are also doing better.

The Commodore is to make use of a few Manoeuvres to deceive the Enemy into an opinion that the Army will Cross S^t. Marys at Wrights landing: He is therefore to light large fires in the night in the Woods & in a few days is to Move up the River & commence a Cannonade under which fire the Army is supposed to land: Whilst the Enemy are thus amused the Troops will embark on rafts & cross the River 10 or 12 Miles from hence. By Prisoners Our Scout Boats have taken We learn that General Prevost & Governor Tonyn are at Variance—that 500 Negroes have been shipped off the Province of Florida since they have heard of the Present Expedition, & that the Governor has issued a Proclamation any more [sic] Slaves to be sent away. That the Governor had wrote to the Country People & advised them to Embody, but that they had refused to do it, but had nevertheless promised him all assistance with their Horses, Waggon, Provisions

& Boats—that the former claim when the Vessels were taken at Frederica Col°. Brown evacuated Fort Tonym, & that it was believed he would do the same at present—That the Scopholites who were Stationed at Front Creek had been very discontented & that some of them had threatened to Return to Carolina & throw themselves upon the Mercy of their Country: that they were Reconciled again & that Major Prevost was drilling & Exercising them; & that they were enlisted for the War in the British Service. That a Vessel which was sent down in S^t. Augustine to serve as a Galley was arrived in S^t. John's River—that they had fortified Hester's [?] bluff & Mounted Two 42 Pounders there—that the Cow Ford was also defended by Works & that they had resolved not to engage Us on the Northern Side of S^t. Johns River. That the Militia at Present did Duty in Augustine & that they did not consist of fifty Effectives.—That the Americans had many Friends in Florida, who had not moved their Furniture or negroes.—The Comodore Reports that there are but 70 or 80 barrels of Clear Rice & 50 barrels of Pork in the fleet for the service of the Army—that the Rebecca Prize Sloop was expected daily laden with Rice & Mounting 16 Guns & that 150 barrels of Pork would arrive in a day or two from Charles-Town.—the Galleys are to go by Sea, the delay which would be occasioned by entering a channel thro Amelia Narrows would be detrimental to Service when the most Sudden & Vigerous Exertions are required.

To Excite the Suspicions of the Enemy respecting our Embarking at Wrights landing to Cross the River, Col°: White with as many Continental Troops as can be spared from the fleet will land, mark out a few Works & lay down an encampment on the Florida Shore.—Intermitting Showers.

Intelligence is Rec^d. that Gen: Scriven is on his March & that he may be expected here to Day or tomorrow. The Governor is yet at Reids bluff.—

26: The Army is arrived at Armstrong on S^t. Marys in Two Days easy March from S^t Illa, altho We were detained some time in Making a bridge over Bayleys branch.

A Reconnoitring Party under L^t. Col^o: Henderson met Us on the March & Reported that he had been at Armstrongs place where Cap^t. Hyrne¹ & L^t. Hampton had Swam the River but could discover no tracks or sign of the Enemy having been there lately.

The General finding the Necessity of a sudden attac on the Enemy wrote to General Screvin & informed him that there was a body of Horse under the Command of Major Parker of the Militia, who were desirous of marching with the Continental Troops & that their acting with us in the Mode proposed (as Light Horse) would prove an essential benefit to Service: Gen: Scriven Replied that He had no Discretionary Powers of Detaching Militia that his Orders were Explicit Positive & Premptory not to cross S^t Illas until further Orders from Gov: Houston who had not as yet quitted his Old Encampment at Reid's Bluff. He however promised the General to forward his Dispatches to the Governor.—This Refusal has proved a great disappointment to Us & has given much disgust to the Continental Troops particularly as Governor Houston promised to aid & Cooperate with the Continental Troops whenever Required—the Army not withstanding will proceed as Usual without waiting for the Militia.

A Reconnoitring Party was this day sent out on the North Side of S^t Marys, who Returned an hour after dark & Reported that they proceeded, to Lee's [?] Hill where they discovered no signs of an Enemy & thence they proceeded to the Swamp opposite Fort Tonym about 7 Miles further which after they had entered for 200 or 300 yards they were alarmed by the beating the Retreat at Fort Tonym.

Cap^t. Taylor & L^t. Hamton were detached on foot to discover if any guard was kept on this side of the River: They had scarcely departed Two Minutes before a whistle was heard & shortly after the discharge of a musquet, which was instantly followed by another & then a Severe firing was construed to be the Report of Swivels. The Party having fulfilled the Intention of their Reconnoitring

¹Edmund Hyrne of 1st Reg., commissioned 4th Nov., 1775.

Returned immediately. Another scouting Party had been detached over the River, who Reported that they proceeded as far as the Enemy's Piquets which they discovered by the fires they kept.

A small Party of One Officer & 9 men was got Over the River this Evening, but the rafts proving bad & too Small a farther transportation of the troops was delayed until the Morning.

28: Yesterday Evening a party under the Command of Cap^t: Moore of the Grenadiers of the 2^d: Georgia Cont: Batt: was detached to Reconnoitre Fort-Tonyn: He had not advanced Two Miles before He was alarmed by the Whistling & Hooping of Several People, whom he thought were Indians. Cap^t: Moore immediately Ordered his L^t: to Return & communicate this Intelligence to the General who ordered the army in their present divided Situation, to lay on their arms. Cap^t. Moore pursued his Way & lay within a Mile & an half of the Fort, where he Remained until Next Morning, when hearing the Reveille beat two Drums, he Retired to the Army & Reported the Above.

The Second Brigade was moving over the River this Day when an alarm was fired by a Picquet of the first Brigade. The General immediately crossed the River, ordering all the men who could Swim, to do it without delay, the Centinel who fired says he saw three Horsemen riding up to the Camp & looking at Our Smokes, & that as soon as he Challenged, they galloped off, & that he then fired upon them. A Light-Horseman pursued & was so near Overtaking one of them, that he compelled to drop his Baggage & Secure himself in a Swamp. by this Means he Escaped. the Articles inclosed in the bundle give Us Reason to believe that the Person pursued was Col^o. Brown himself who commands the Corps of Rangers in East-Florida; a letter from Major Prevost to him confirms the suspicion where in he advised him not to delay his Retreat from Fort-Tonyn too long & approves of his Design of harrassing Our flanks & hanging on Our Rear. The Army was Ordered to hold itself in Readiness to March immediately as all the Troops had crossed which would be in half an hour.

The Governor in the Mean-time arrived with his Militia the General instantly returned over the River & in their Interview an alteration arose respecting the Sole Command of the Troops, which, after delaying the Army 3 or 4 hours, ended very unsatisfactorily to both parties: Each retains his Command. The General therefore proposed that the Governor should take his Choice whether he would march against Fort Tonym or against Major Prevost, whom, we were informed, was posted 15 or 20 Miles distant from Us on the great Road leading to Augustine, the Governor chose the latter, thus all prospect of Cooperation, should it be wanted, is at an end.

Major Baker with his light-Horse is ordered to Cross the River (tho' not to act with Continental Troops) & Reconnoitre Fort Tonym: the few light Horse we have went out with them.

Major Wilder has leave granted him, upon his application, to act as a volunteer in the light horse.

Col^o. Jack & his officers have been prevailed upon with difficulty to Receive their Commission again.

M^r. Mills has been ordered by the Governor to quit the Generals Camp, altho' he is the only guide we can depend upon. Not withstanding the Governor withdraws these supports from Us, He has been assisted by the General in rafts to Cross the River & in provisions ready laid in for him at the Alatomaha & S^t Illas, He has roads ready cleared for him & has detained several Continental Soldiers & Pioneers upon S^t Illas, to build a flat, when Sickness had Reduced Our Army so much that we had scarcely Men enough to do the Common Duties of the Camp.—The Governor has never communicated his numbers or Designs to the General.

The Army Marched about 4 o'clock in the afternoon leaving their Baggage & had proceeded 6 or 7 miles, when they were met by the Reconnoitring Party of Horse, who Reported, that the Enemy had Evacuated the Fort & burnt it. The Army halted & lay upon their Arms after a tedious & difficult Night March till One o'Clock in the morning.

The whole Army was much disappointed.

29: On the halt of the Army next Morning whilst the Pioneers were cutting a road thro' a Swamp & laying a bridge over the Water-course, One of Our flankers fired upon Two Horsemen, who instantly wheeled about & galloped off; One of them it is believed is wounded.

The Army proceeded and took possession of the Fort that Morning.

A quantity of Stores & Baggage belonging to the Enemy has been discovered which they had buried under their Barracks & then set fire to them.

A Centry of the Cattle Guard fired as he Says upon two Horsemen about 7 o'clock in the Evening: It proved a false alarm, He having fired upon & killed a Horse.

We hear that Captⁿ. Moore of Col^o. Browns Rangers is killed & twenty of his Men taken near Augusta & that Cap^t. Osborn & Bachop in two small vessels were taken off Charles Town Bar. Both these Pieces of Intelligence are confirmed.

Major Romand is arrived & says that whilst at Fort Howe he made a frequent applications to the Governor to assist the Continental Sick & that he could obtain none: that he granted a Field Piece to the Governor upon his requition & had left his Corps of Workmen at S^t. Illas to build a flat to facilitate the passage of his Troops.

Major Romand also says that after the Governor had Marched, He applied to Col^o. Walton, who was left with some troops at Reid's bluff to Relieve the distresses of the Sick & Remove them to some place where they might obtain proper Nourishment: & that upon his Refusing he Resolved to leave them with him at any rate, as he had no Waggon or boats by which he could Convey them into the Settlements. Col^o. Walton afterwards, He Understood, had sent them to Darien which at present is uninhabited, & where no possible assistance could be given them.

An Express is sent to the Galleys for Salt, Provisions & other Necessaries.

(To be continued.)